GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:166
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DECLINE IN TOURISTS
RAMCHANDRA PASWAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in tourists in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttranchal and Himachal Pradesh during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to attract tourists in the said States?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): On the basis of information provided by the State Government, there has been adecline of 27.9% in the tourist visits to the State of Jammu & Kashmir during the year2002 (January-June) as compared to the corresponding period of the year 2001. TheNumber of tourist visits to the State of Himachal Pradesh, Uttranchal and Jammu & Kashmir during the year 2002 is as follows:-

State	Number of tourist visits during 2001	2002	%Change
Jammu & Kashmir (January-June)	2665705	1921256	-27.9
Himachal Pradesh (January-March)	1142273	1320682	15.62
Uttaranchal (January-February)	909861	976704	7.34

(b): The decline in flow of tourist traffic to the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been due to the prevailing conditions in the State.

(c): Various steps being taken to attract more tourists include positioning and maintaining tourism development as a national priority activity, enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination, improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements, creation of world class infrastructure, developing sustained and effective marketing plans and programs, special thrust to rural and small segment tourism and attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration and good governance and also of social and cultural values.